

Sanctuary was abolished in cases of murder, rape, and robbery with violence or on the highway. This was in 1540.¹ In 1623 it was abolished altogether,² though for many years longer the privilege survived as an anomaly in the slums of Alsatia, its last and vilest stronghold.

The original question of the hostage was compromised by the surrender of the young Spaniard to the King, and the release of the surviving knight, Shakell, who was given 500 marks down and 100 marks a year for life.³ It is to be hoped that the poor fellow long lived to enjoy his pension and to abuse John of Gaunt.

Wycliffe was far from contented with the miserably inadequate statute of 1379, and was disgusted to find that it had been made the basis of a reconciliation between Church and State. He brought out a pamphlet, known as 'De Officio Regis' in reference to the general issues raised by the late events. The Church, he said, should be under the supervision of the secular power. She had proved incapable of reforming herself. Her spiritual heads, the Bishops, Cardinals and Popes, refused to amend crying evils. Therefore, to save the efficiency of the Church, the State must be called in to act as guardian. The King should compel the Bishops to look to the state of the clergy in their diocese, and remove notoriously immoral and inefficient pastors. The King should enforce residence in all parishes, in this case also through the agency of the Bishops. The King should prevent the appointment of ignorant priests, and compel all clerks to study.⁴ This proposal is particularly interesting, because it foreshadows the peculiarity of the English Reformation under the Tudors and Stuarts, which was carried out by the Crown, acting through its servants and nominees, the Bishops. Wycliffe no doubt had at one moment entertained hopes that such interference by the King's Council would follow the loud talk against ecclesiastical privilege at the Parliament of Gloucester. But as this feeling of animosity died down at Court, as Church and State became once more friends and allies, especially after the Peasants' Rising of 1381, he was forced to abandon this

¹ *Stats. of Realm*, 32 H. VIII. 12. Wals., i. 411. 1 mark = 13s. 4d, cap. vii. and *passim*. ² *Ibid.* 21 Jac. I. 286. » ⁴ *De Officio Regis*,